

1  
2 Anne R. Traum, Esq.  
3 NV Bar #7939  
Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic  
PO Box 71075  
4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89170  
(702) 895-2080  
5 anne.traum@unlv.edu

6 Attorney for Juan Rodriguez  
7  
8  
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA  
10  
11  
12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) Case No: 2:09-cr-00262-JCM-RJJ  
13 Plaintiff, )  
14 )  
15 vs. )  
16 JUAN RODRIGUEZ, )  
17 Defendant, )  
18 \_\_\_\_\_)

**UNOPPOSED MOTION  
TO INCLUDE  
DEFENDANT'S EXHIBIT 501  
AND GOVERNMENT'S  
TRIAL MEMORANDUM  
IN THE PACER RECORD AND ORDER**

19  
20 Defendant Juan Rodriguez, through Counsel Anne R. Traum, Esq., Thomas and Mack  
21 Legal Clinic, requests that this Court correct the trial record by adding Defendant's Exhibit  
22 501 and the Government's Trial Memorandum to the Pacer Record. Pursuant to FRAP 10(e),  
23 the district court may correct or modify the record in the event "anything material to either  
24 party is omitted from ... the record by error or accident" "before or after the record has been  
25 forwarded." FRAP 10(e)(2)(B).

26 Although Defendant's Exhibit 501 was admitted at trial, it is not referenced on  
27 PACER. Similarly, the Government's Trial Memorandum was filed in open court on  
28 December 1, 2010, but also is not referenced on PACER. Both of these documents will be

included in the Excerpts of Record and filed with Defendant's Opening Brief, which is due on December 2, 2011. *See* Ninth Circuit Rule 30-1.1(a-b) (requiring excerpts of the records in counseled appeals); FRAP 10(a)(1-3) (requiring the excerpts to contain original papers and exhibits filed in district court), Ninth Circuit Rule 10-2(b) (same).

1. Defendant's Exhibit 501 is an 8.5" x 11" print of a photograph that was admitted to evidence at trial on December 7, 2010. This Court has the original marked exhibit.
  2. The Government's Trial Memorandum was filed in court on December 1, 2010, and is attached to this motion as Exhibit A.

On November 16, 2011, undersigned counsel contacted Assistant United States Attorney Bradley Giles, who stated that he does not oppose this motion.

Accordingly, Defendant Rodriguez asks this Court to grant this motion and include in the PACER record Defendant's Exhibit 501 and the Government's Trial Memorandum, attached herein as Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of November, 2011.

UNLV WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW  
THOMAS & MACK LEGAL CLINIC

By: /s/ Anne R. Traum  
ANNE R. TRAUM  
Attorney for Juan Rodriguez

IT IS SO ORDERED

James C. Mahan  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
DATED: November 22, 2011

1  
2                   **CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE**  
3

4                   The undersigned hereby certifies that she is an employee of the University of  
5                   Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, and is a person of such age and  
6                   discretion as to be competent to serve papers.  
7

8                   That on November 17, 2011, she served an electronic copy of the above and  
9                   foregoing UNOPPOSED MOTION TO INCLUDE DEFENDANT'S EXHIBIT 501 AND  
10                  THE GOVERNMENT'S TRIAL MEMORANDUM IN THE PACER RECORD by  
11                  electronic service (ECF) to the person named below:  
12

13                  Daniel G. Bogden  
14                  United States Attorney  
15                  Robert Ellman  
16                  Bradley Giles  
17                  Assistant United States Attorneys  
18                  333 Las Vegas Blvd. So., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
19                  Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

20                  \_\_\_\_\_  
21                  /s/ Anne R. Traum  
22                  Employee of the University of Las Vegas,  
23                  Williams S. Boyd School of Law,  
24                  Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic  
25  
26  
27  
28

Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic  
William S. Boyd School of Law  
P.O. Box 71075, Las Vegas, Nevada 89170-1075  
Telephone: (702) 895-2080 Facsimile: (702) 895-2081

# Exhibit A

1 DANIEL G. BOGDEN  
United States Attorney  
2 BRADLEY W. GILES  
Assistant United States Attorney  
3 333 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Suite 500  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
4  
5

6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

8 -oOo-

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) 2: 09-cr-0262-JCM-RJJ  
10 Plaintiff, )  
11 vs. ) **GOVERNMENT'S TRIAL**  
12 JUAN RODRIGUEZ, )  
13 aka Juan Rodriguez-Lopez, ) **MEMORANDUM**  
14 Defendants. )  
15

16 COMES NOW the United States of America, by and through DANIEL G. BOGDEN,  
17 United States Attorney, Bradley W. Giles, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Nevada, and  
18 submits the following trial memorandum pursuant to the Court's Order regarding pretrial procedure.

19 I.

20 **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

21 On December 1, 2010, a Federal Grand Jury returned a Fourth Superseding Indictment against  
22 Defendant Juan Rodriguez, aka Juan Rodriquz-Lopez.<sup>1</sup> The Defendant is charged with the following  
23 violations: Count 1: Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 United States Code  
24 (U.S.C.) § 846; Count 2: Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime, in  
25 violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(I), and Count 3: Felon in Possession of a Firearm,  
26 in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2). The Fourth Superseding Indictment  
27

28 

---

<sup>1</sup> Prior indictments contained additional co-defendants whose cases have now been resolved.

1 also contains forfeiture allegations referencing the firearm and ammunition seized from Defendant  
2 Rodriguez in connection with the investigation. Defendant will need to be arraigned on the new  
3 superseding indictment prior to the commencement of trial.

4 **II.**

5 **STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE FACTS**

6 On June 3, 2009, DEA Special Agents debriefed a DEA Confidential Source (C/S) concerning  
7 a methamphetamine trafficker from California named "Alfonso." According to the C/S, Alfonso was  
8 willing to transport multi-pound quantities of methamphetamine to Clark County, Nevada for the  
9 purpose of selling the methamphetamine to the C/S for \$20,000.00 per pound.

10 Between June 3, 2009 and June 16, 2009, agents recorded three consensually-monitored  
11 telephone conversations between the C/S and Alfonso. During these telephone conversations, the C/S  
12 and Alfonso attempted to work out the details of a possible methamphetamine transaction. On June 16,  
13 2009, during the final recorded conversation, Alfonso agreed to transport a multi-pound load of  
14 methamphetamine to Las Vegas and then sell it to the C/S on June 18, 2009.

15 On June 18, 2009, at approximately 7:30 p.m., investigators established surveillance in the area  
16 of the Primm Valley Resort and Casino on the Nevada side of the California/Nevada border in  
17 preparation for a meeting between the C/S, an undercover DEA Task Force Officer (U/C) and Alfonso.

18 At approximately 7:49 p.m., a blue Chevrolet S-10 registered to Defendant Adrian Fuentes-  
19 Garcia arrived at a Chevron gas station within the surveillance area. The blue S-10 was occupied by two  
20 individuals subsequently identified as Defendants Alfonso Rivera-Avalos and Adrian Fuentes-Garcia.  
21 The S-10 then exited the Chevron gas station and drove over to where the U/C and C/S were parked.  
22 Rivera-Avalos was driving and Fuentes, the registered owner of the S-10, was seated in the passenger  
23 seat. The C/S later confirmed that Alfonso Rivera-Avalos was the Alfonso who had been participating  
24 in the monitored telephone conversations.

25 Rivera-Avalos and Fuentes then engaged in conversation with the U/C and C/S. Both Rivera-  
26 Avalos and Fuentes pointed out a red 2008 Ford Explorer (later determined to be registered to Defendant  
27 Jose Luis Rubio-Rodriguez) which was parked in the vicinity of the gas station. They identified the  
28

1 Explorer as the load vehicle. In addition, Fuentes told the U/C that no special tools would be required  
2 to open the compartment containing the methamphetamine. This would later prove to be correct.

3 As the meeting was occurring, agents observed an older Mexican female, (later identified as  
4 Defendant Adelina Arias) watching from the Chevron gas station. When the meeting concluded, Arias  
5 joined an individual who was subsequently identified as the registered owner of the Explorer, Defendant  
6 Jose Luis Rubio-Rodriguez. Arias got into the driver's seat of the vehicle and Rubio took his place in  
7 the front passenger seat. Rubio's uncharged juvenile son also got into the back of the red Ford Explorer.

8 The U/C informed additional surveillance agents that he had made arrangements such that the  
9 blue Chevrolet S-10 and the red Ford Explorer would be following him to Las Vegas. However, as the  
10 convoy left the area, investigators also observed a black 2005 Toyota Tundra that appeared to be  
11 following the other three vehicles. The driver and sole occupant of the Tundra was later identified as  
12 Juan Rodriguez. He is also the registered owner.

13 While heading north on I-15 towards Las Vegas, the U/C vehicle, the blue S-10, the red Explorer,  
14 and the black Tundra drove one behind the other in a tight formation. The U/C vehicle was the lead car  
15 in the convoy. When it changed lanes, the other three vehicles followed in quick succession. Agents  
16 eventually conducted traffic stops on the blue Chevrolet S-10, the red Ford Explorer, and the black  
17 Toyota Tundra.

18 The red Explorer (driven by Defendant Arias) stopped without incident. After receiving an alert  
19 from a Nevada Highway Patrol drug detection canine, Troopers recovered approximately 2,514.2 gross  
20 grams of methamphetamine in five clear plastic zip-lock bags hidden behind the back seat. As was  
21 earlier noted by Defendant Fuentes, no special tools were required to get to the packages of suspected  
22 methamphetamine.

23 The blue S-10 was stopped without incident and Defendants Rivera-Avalos and Fuentes were  
24 contacted. Inside their vehicle, agents located the cellular telephone that the C/S was utilizing to contact  
25 Rivera-Avalos.

26 After seeing both the S-10 and the Explorer get pulled over by marked units, Rodriguez (the  
27 driver of the black Tundra) departed the area at high speed, changing his speed from approximately 5  
28 miles per hour under the limit to in excess of 90 miles per hour. Following an initial pursuit, Rodriguez

1 eventually pulled over. As an LVMPD Detective approached the vehicle, he heard a loud thump inside  
2 the passenger compartment. Subsequent investigation revealed that Rodriguez threw a loaded Cal. .9  
3 (.380) Beretta handgun (contained in a leather holster) to the passenger side of the vehicle as the officers  
4 were approaching him. The weapon was recovered on the floor of the passenger compartment by the  
5 passenger door. The handgun was determined to be a loaded Beretta Cal. .9 (.380) semi-automatic  
6 pistol, bearing serial number D32470Y.

7 All five adults were arrested. (The juvenile, Rubio-Rodriguez's son, was released for  
8 deportation.) All five Defendants waived their *Miranda* rights and consented to interviews. During their  
9 interviews, Rivera-Avalos and Fuentes claimed to be Mexican nationals who were residing illegally in  
10 the United States. Both stated that they were in Las Vegas to party and claimed to know nothing about  
11 a planned methamphetamine transaction.

12 Both the registered owner of the Explorer (Rubio) and the driver of the Explorer (Arias) claimed  
13 to know nothing about the methamphetamine which was discovered inside their vehicle. Rubio stated  
14 that Arias had invited him to Las Vegas to party, while Arias claimed that Rubio invited her to party in  
15 Las Vegas. Rubio admitted to being a Mexican national illegally residing within the United States.

16 Rodriguez claimed that he had come to Las Vegas to party with Rubio and Arias. He also stated  
17 that he had forgotten about the pistol that was in his vehicle (although he earlier told agents that he  
18 planned to buy extra magazines for the pistol while in Las Vegas). Finally, Rodriguez falsely told agents  
19 that he had no prior arrests. Despite the fact that all five defendants claimed to have arrived in Las  
20 Vegas to party, not one was carrying any luggage containing toiletries or a change of clothes.

21 Investigators conducted a presumptive field test on the methamphetamine which was discovered  
22 inside the red Ford Explorer. The sample tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine. This  
23 was later confirmed by laboratory analysis which demonstrates that the seized narcotics had a purity  
24 level of 91% and thus contain 2,227.67 grams of pure methamphetamine. An interstate nexus report  
25 prepared by a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agent confirms that the  
26 Beretta firearm was manufactured outside the state of Nevada, therefore it has traveled in or affected  
27 interstate commerce.

28 ...

III.

DISCOVERY

The United States has complied with its discovery obligations. To date, aside from a list of three potential witnesses, the defendant has not provided reciprocal discovery (if any). The case is proceeding according to a joint discovery agreement. Undersigned counsel has contacted the defense to request notification of any outstanding discovery matters; to date, aside from the release of Grand Jury Transcripts (which requires an Order from this Court) and a pending meeting with defense counsel to discuss a phone contact summary chart, undersigned counsel is not aware of any outstanding discovery requests. At calendar call, the Government will request that this Court Order the release of the Grand Jury transcripts.

IV.

## **EVIDENTIARY ISSUES**

13 At trial, the United States will seek to introduce the following materials into evidence that could  
14 potentially draw objections from the defense:

## A. Stipulations

16 The Government's understanding is that the defendant does not have any objection to the  
17 translations of the undercover communications which were previously released in discovery.

18 The parties have also stipulated that they will make a joint recommendation to this Court that  
19 the Felon in Possession charge (Count 3) should be bifurcated from the case-in-chief due to the potential  
20 prejudice to the Defendant. However, immediately following jury deliberations and the return of a  
21 verdict on the remaining counts, it would be appropriate to have the same jury (following a brief  
22 presentation of additional evidence) deliberate with regard to Count 3. See e.g., *United States v. Nguyen*,  
23 88 F.3d 812 (9th Cir. 1996).

24 In exchange for the joint recommendation that the “Felon in Possession” count be bifurcated,  
25 Defendant Rodriguez has indicated that he is willing to enter into a stipulation with regard to his prior  
26 felony conviction.

27 Additionally, it is anticipated that the defendant will stipulate to the drug test results and chain  
28 of custody regarding the seized methamphetamine.

1           **B.     Chain of Custody**

2           At trial, the Government will move to admit several items of physical evidence. To be admitted  
3 into evidence, a physical exhibit must be in substantially the same condition as when the crime was  
4 committed. This determination is to be made by the trial judge and will not be overturned except for  
5 clear abuse of discretion. Factors the court may consider in making this determination include the nature  
6 of the item, the circumstances surrounding its preservation, and the likelihood of intermeddlers having  
7 tampered with it. *See Gallego v. United States*, 276 F.2d 914, 917 (9th Cir. 1960).

8           The Government need not establish all links in the chain of custody of an item or call all persons  
9 who were in a position to come into contact with it. *See Gallego*, 276 F.2d at 917. Alleged gaps in the  
10 chain of custody go to the weight of the evidence rather than to its admissibility. *United States v. Matta-*  
11 *Ballasteros*, 71 F.3d 754 (9th Cir. 1995).

12           **C.     Photographs and Video**

13           The Government will also move to admit several crime scene photographs which were taken on  
14 the morning of the defendants' arrest. Photographs are admissible within the discretion of the Court  
15 when the picture is shown to be a correct representation of the site, person, or object depicted. *See*  
16 *United States v. Oaxaca*, 569 F.2d 518 (9th Cir. 1978), *cert. denied*, 439 U.S. 926 (1978). With regard  
17 to each of the photographs, the Government will lay a foundation to establish that it depicts a correct  
18 likeness of the scene that it purports to represent. *United States v. Stearns*, 550 F.2d 1167, 1168-69 (9th  
19 Cir. 1977). A witness or party can verify the accuracy of the photographs; it is not necessary for the  
20 person who took the picture to provide the evidentiary foundation. *United States v. Henderson*, 68 F.3d  
21 323, 324 (9th Cir. 1995).

22           **D.     Expert Testimony**

23           The Government has given notice that it intends to introduce expert testimony at trial [Docket  
24 #'s 93 and 57]. The expert witnesses previously-endorsed by the Government include:

- 25 1)       **Thomas Chittum, III, Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and**  
26 **Explosives:**

27           Absent stipulation, the Government will call Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Thomas  
28 L. Chittum of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to testify with

1 regard to the interstate nexus examination which was completed on the firearm seized in  
2 connection with the investigation of the above-captioned case. An interstate nexus report was  
3 previously completed by ATF S/A Chad M. Key (released in discovery as Bates #113). It is  
4 expected that Mr. Chittum will testify that he completed an independent Interstate Nexus  
5 Examination and a Firearms Trace in reference to the firearm seized in connection with this case  
6 and that his conclusions were in concurrence with those listed within S/A Key's report.  
7 Specifically, he is expected to testify, *inter alia*, that the firearm was manufactured outside the  
8 state of Nevada and it had therefore traveled in or affected interstate commerce. He is also  
9 expected to testify regarding: (a) the methodologies he employed in analyzing the firearm, (b)  
10 chain of custody related to those procedures, and (c) any other area that is within the witness'  
11 area of expertise which is helpful to the jury's comprehension of the relevant issues in this case.  
12 S/A Chittum will also testify regarding any observations which were made during the testing  
13 process.

14 Additionally, S/A Chittum will testify with regard to his training and experience  
15 reference the relationship between firearms and drug trafficking. Such testimony will include  
16 an explanation of: (a) drug trafficking structures and organizations, including the modus  
17 operandi of narcotics distribution, transportation and storage; (b) the custom and practice of drug  
18 dealers and transportation cells during drug transactions, including their use of intermediaries, counter-  
19 surveillance techniques and armed personnel to protect their loads; (c) why drug traffickers  
20 commonly possess firearms, and how those firearms facilitate or further drug trafficking crimes;  
21 (d) quantities of narcotics (including the difference between a quantity intended for personal use  
22 and a quantity intended for further distribution to other purchasers); (e) the relative value of  
23 narcotics (including the value of quantities intended for personal use and quantities intended for  
24 further distribution), and specifically, the wholesale and retail or street value of  
25 methamphetamine in Las Vegas, Nevada; (f) how methamphetamine is consumed and what  
26 paraphernalia are associated with drug use and drug distribution; and (g) and other areas that are  
27 within the witness' area of expertise and are helpful to the jury's comprehension of the relevant  
28 issues in this case.

1        Additionally, Agent Chittum will also testify that, to a reasonable degree of certainty, the  
2 amount of methamphetamine involved in this case is consistent with an amount that is intended  
3 for distribution to others. A copy of Agent Chittum's resume was previously released as an  
4 attachment to the Government's Notice of Expert Testimony, previously filed on April 22, 2010  
5 [Docket #93].

6        2) **Khushboo Narechania, Forensic Scientist II, LVMPD Forensic Laboratory:**

7        Absent stipulation, the Government will call Forensic Scientist Khushboo Narechania with the  
8 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Forensic Laboratory, to testify with regard to her  
9 report that she processed and tested the methamphetamine which was seized and submitted in reference  
10 to this case. She will testify regarding: (a) the identity of the narcotics seized in the present case, (b) the  
11 weights and purity levels of those narcotics, (c) the scientific methodologies she employed in analyzing  
12 the substance(s) seized in the present case, (d) chain of custody related to those procedures, and (e) any  
13 other area that is within the witness' area of expertise and is helpful to the jury's comprehension of the  
14 relevant issues in this case. She will also testify regarding any observations which were made during  
15 the testing process. The chemist's report has been released in discovery. Additionally her qualifications  
16 to testify as an expert witness were previously released.

17        Federal Rule of Evidence 702 permits expert testimony when it "will assist the trier of fact to  
18 understand the evidence." Copies of the reports related to the above-captioned expert testimony, and  
19 copies of a curriculum vitae for each witness has been released in discovery.

20        E. **Co-conspirator Statements**

21        The United States gives notice of its intent to introduce against the defendant statements made  
22 by co-conspirators, including "Alex" LNU, and others. *See Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(E); see also*  
23 *Bourjaily v. United States*, 483 U.S. 171, 181-184 (1987) (statements made by party's co-conspirator  
24 during course of and in furtherance of criminal conspiracy are not hearsay and do not violate  
25 Confrontation Clause). Co-conspirator statements are not "testimonial," so they do not implicate the  
26 restrictions of *Crawford v. Washington*, 541 U.S. 36 (2004). *United States v. Allen*, 425 F.3d 1231 (9th  
27 Cir. 2005). These co-conspirator statements consist of the recorded phone conversation that has already  
28 been provided to the defendants.

1           **F.     Improper Use of Character Evidence at Trial**

2       Defendant Rodriguez has informed the Government of his intent to call three of his children to  
3 testify at trial. Defense counsel states that he intends to call these witnesses to testify with regard to the  
4 Defendant's work history, financial status and their relationships with him. Defendant denies that such  
5 evidence constitutes "character evidence"; the Government objects to the admission of any such  
6 evidence.

7       Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 404(a), with limited exceptions, "Evidence of a person's character  
8 or a trait of character is not admissible for the purpose of proving action in conformity therewith on a  
9 particular occasion." While those exceptions include evidence of a pertinent character trait offered by  
10 an accused, *see*, Fed. R. Crim. P. 404(a)(1), courts have declined to admit testimony relating to a  
11 defendant's propensity to engage in large-scale drug dealing. *See e.g., United States v. Diaz*, 961 F.2d  
12 1417, 1419-20 (9th Cir. 1992) (holding that while questioning reference a defendant's propensity to  
13 engage in criminal activity is a proper inquiry into a general character trait, questioning reference  
14 propensity to engage in large-scale drug trafficking is not an appropriate area of inquiry). The  
15 Government therefore objects to the improper of character evidence within the trial of this case and  
16 hereby moves *in limine* to prevent reference to any such material in opening statements. Furthermore,  
17 if Defendant Rodriguez does elect to offer evidence at trial related to his law-abiding character, the  
18 Government reserves its right to question the character witnesses regarding Defendant's prior felony  
19 conviction for alien smuggling.

20           **G.     Impeachment with Prior Felony Conviction**

21       On October 8, 2010, the Government provided written notice, pursuant to Federal Rules of  
22 Evidence 609(a)(1) and 609(b) that the Government intends to impeach the defendant with his prior  
23 felony conviction in the event that he testifies at trial. Specifically, the Defendant was convicted on or  
24 about October 31, 1984 in U.S. District Court for Eastern District of California at Fresno, case number  
25 CR-F-82-184 MDC, of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, to wit:  
26 Transporting Illegal Aliens in violation of Title 8, United States Code Section 1324(a)(2). As a result  
27 of this conviction, the Defendant was sentenced to 2 years incarceration with credit for time served with  
28

1 the execution of that sentence suspended upon the service of two years informal probation. A certified  
2 copy of the Defendant's prior conviction has previously been released in discovery.

3 The Defendant's prior felony conviction is admissible as proper impeachment should the  
4 Defendant choose to testify at trial. Federal Rule of Evidence 609(a)(1) states:

5 For the purpose of attacking the credibility of a witness, (1) evidence that a witness  
6 other than an accused has been convicted of a crime shall be admitted, subject to Rule  
7 403, if the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year... and  
8 evidence that an accused has been convicted of such a crime shall be admitted if the  
court determines that the probative value of admitting this evidence outweighs its  
prejudicial effect to the accused; . . .

9 Fed. R. Evid. 609(a)(1).

10 Further, evidence of a defendant's prior felony conviction is subject to the time limitations  
11 imposed by Federal Rule of Evidence 609(b), which states:

12 Evidence of a conviction under this rule is not admissible if a period of more than ten  
13 years has elapsed since the date of the conviction or of the release of the witness from  
the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date, unless the  
court determines, in the interests of justice, that the probative value of the conviction  
supported by specific facts and circumstances substantially outweighs its prejudicial  
effect. However, evidence of a conviction more than 10 years old as calculated herein,  
is not admissible unless the proponent gives to the adverse party sufficient advance  
written notice of intent to use such evidence to provide the adverse party with a fair  
opportunity to contest the use of such evidence.

17 Fed. R. Evid. 609(b).

18 Courts consider five factors in determining whether the probative value outweighs the prejudicial  
19 effect. *United States v. Cook*, 608 F.2d 1175, 1185 n. 8 (9th Cir.1979) (*en banc*), cert. denied, 444 U.S.  
20 1034, 100 S.Ct. 706, 62 L.Ed.2d 670 (1980), overruled on other grounds in *Luce v. United States*, 469  
21 U.S. 38, 105 S.Ct. 460 (1984); *United States v. Alexander, et. al*, 48 F.3d 1477, 1488 (9th Cir.1995),  
22 cert. denied 116 S.Ct. 210 (1995). The five factors are: (1) the impeachment value of the prior crime;  
23 (2) the point in time of conviction and the defendant's subsequent history; (3) the similarity between the  
24 past crime and the charged crime; (4) the importance of the defendant's testimony; and (5) the centrality  
25 of the defendant's credibility. *Id.*

26 As the Ninth Circuit noted in *Alexander*, "When a defendant takes the stand and denies having  
27 committed the charged offense, he places his credibility at issue." *Id.* at 1489 citing *United States v.*  
28 *Browne*, 829 F.2d 760, 764 (9th Cir.1987).

If the Defendant elects to testify at trial, the Government will move to address the Court out of the presence of the jury prior to making any attempt to admit the impeachment information. Depending on the nature of the defense which is endorsed by the Defendant within the trial of this matter, the Government reserves its right to argue the factors set forth herein as the Government currently has no information regarding the Defendant's theory of defense. In the event that such information is introduced at trial, a proper limiting instruction may be appropriate.

V.  
PERTINENT LAW

**TITLE 21, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 846, 841(a)(1) AND 841(b)(1)(A)(viii),  
CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE**

A violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii), Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, is charged in Count One of the Fourth Superseding Indictment. The essential elements for this offense are:

- First: On or about June 18, 2009, the Defendant did knowingly and intentionally combine, conspire, confederate and agree together with one or more other persons;
- Second: To possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of actual methamphetamine to wit: **2,227.67 grams** of actual methamphetamine, a schedule II controlled substance.

**TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 924(c)(1)(A)(I),  
POSSESSION OF A FIREARM IN FURTHERANCE OF A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME**

A violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(I), Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(I), is charged in Count Two of the Fourth Superseding Indictment. The essential elements for this offense are:

- First: Defendant Rodriguez committed the crime of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine as Charged in Count One of the Superseding Indictment.
- Second: Defendant Rodriguez knowingly [used], [carried], [possessed], [brandished] and [discharged] a Beretta model 84BB Cal. .9 (.380) handgun bearing serial number D32470Y; and
- Third: Defendant Rodriguez knowingly [used], [carried], [possessed], [brandished] and [discharged] the firearm during and in relation to the crime.

1                   **TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 922(g)(1) AND 924(a)(2),**  
2                   **FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

3                   A violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2), Felon in  
4                   Possession of a Firearm, is charged in Count Three of the Third Superseding Indictment. The  
essential elements for this offense are:

- 5                   First:         On or about June 18, 2009, in the state and Federal District of Nevada; Defendant Rodriguez knowingly possessed a Beretta model 84BB 9mm handgun bearing serial number D324704;
- 6                   Second:      The firearm had been shipped or transported from one state to another, foreign commerce; and
- 7                   Third:        At the time Defendant Rodriguez possessed the firearm, he had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

11                   **VI.**

12                   **EXHIBIT LIST**

13                   The Government has filed a preliminary list of exhibits which it intends to introduce within  
14 the trial of the above -captioned case. Those exhibits include:

- 15                   1)         Audio cd containing three consensually-monitored phone calls between the  
Confidential Informant and "Alfonso"
- 16                   2)         Transcriptions of Exhibit 1
- 17                   3)         Overhead view of Primm Resort and Casino
- 18                   4)         Undercover Recording of the meeting between the undercover agent (U/C), Rivera-Avalos and Fuentes-Garcia
- 19                   5)         Video Recording of the narcotics meeting a subsequent vehicle convoy
- 20                   6)         Seized Methamphetamine
- 21                   7)         Photo of Explorer
- 22                   8)         Photo of Explorer Compartment
- 23                   9)         Cell Phone Recovered from the Red Ford Explorer: (626) 551-6516
- 24                   10)        Cell Phone Recovered from the Red Ford Explorer: (626) 512-8646
- 25                   11)        Photo of Blue S-10
- 26                   12)        Cell Phone Recovered from the Blue S-10 pickup: (323) 718-7490

- 1       13) Cell Phone Recovered from the Blue S-10 pickup: (323) 718-7493
- 2       14) Photograph of Black Toyota Tundra
- 3       15) Beretta 9mm semi-automatic handgun, bearing serial number D32470Y (contained in  
4              Brown Leather Holster)
- 5       16) Magazine seized from Rodriguez at the time of the vehicle stop
- 6       17) Secondary magazine seized from Rodriguez at the time of the vehicle stop
- 7       18) Ammunition seized from Rodriguez at the time of the vehicle stop
- 8       19) Photograph: Black Toyota Tundra Interior
- 9       20) Cell Phone Recovered from the Black Tundra: (626) 485-5248
- 10      21) Cell Phone Recovered from the Black Tundra: (626) 343-2141
- 11      22) Miscellaneous documents recovered from the Black Tundra
- 12      23) Cell Phone S/W information: (626) 551-6516
- 13      24) Cell Phone S/W information: (626) 512-8646
- 14      25) Cell Phone S/W information: (323) 718-7490
- 15      26) Cell Phone S/W information: (323) 718-7493
- 16      27) Cell Phone S/W information: (626) 485-5248
- 17      28) Cell Phone S/W information: (626) 343-2141
- 18      29) Cell Phone Data Summary Chart
- 19      30) Methamphetamine Photos - Taken at Laboratory
- 20      31) Laboratory Report regarding the seized methamphetamine
- 21      32) Certified Prior Conviction Document re: Defendant Rodriguez
- 22      33) Stipulation: Certified Prior Conviction re: Defendant Rodriguez

23  
24      The finalized exhibit list will be submitted to the Court on the appropriate form prior to the  
25 commencement of trial. This list simply represents a good faith list of exhibits which the  
26 Government plans to introduce within its case in chief. The Government respectfully reserves its  
27 right to modify this list at any time in order to complete the presentation of its case in chief at trial.  
28

VII.

## **WITNESSES**

At this point, the Government anticipates calling the following witnesses in its case in chief:

Christopher Cadogan, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent

John Gutbub, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent

Michael Rosenthal, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent

Cindy Prochnow, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent

Robert Martin, Drug Enforcement Administration Group Supervisor

Esther Rodrigues, Drug Enforcement Administration Interpreter

Peter Lazaro, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent

Stephen Sabot, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent

Roger Martin, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent

Stephen Balonek, Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force Officer

Orestes Guerra, Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force Officer

James Murray, Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force Officer

Paul DeAngelis, Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force Officer

John Zidzik, Detective, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Shaun Martin, Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol

Neil Ferguson, Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol

Matt Moonin, Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol

Cole Masutani, Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol

Khushboo Narechania, LVMPD, Forensic Scientist II

Thomas L. Chittum, Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Dallas Ryan, DEA Analyst

VIII.

## **JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

27 The Government has submitted a set of joint proposed jury instructions to defense counsel  
28 and the parties will submit a full set of joint proposed jury instructions under separate cover per the

1 Court's Order. We respectfully request that the Court give any general instructions it deems  
2 necessary.

IX.

**CERTIFICATE OF READINESS FOR TRIAL**

5 The undersigned hereby certifies that they are trial counsel for the United States herein, that  
6 subpoenas have been issued for all non-governmental employees who will testify herein, and that the  
7 matter is ready for trial.

X.

**SERVICE AND FILING OF TRIAL MEMORANDUM**

10 The undersigned certifies that, before jury selection in this case, the original copy of this Trial  
11 Memorandum will be filed in an open court and a copy served upon counsel for the defense in  
12 accordance with this Court's Order governing pre-trial procedures.

Respectfully submitted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2010.

**DANIEL G. BOGDEN**  
United States Attorney  
District of Nevada

~~Bradley W. Giles  
Assistant U.S. Attorney~~